

**REMARKS**

The Advisory Action mailed September 29, 2004 indicates that all of the pending claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-28, and 30-40 are rejected. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to amend claims 7, 14, 21, 28 and 35-40.

In item 7, on page 2 of the Office Action mailed June 18, 2004, and on page 2 of the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicates that the disclosed invention apparently does in fact distinguish over the cited references however the invention as recited by the claims does not. The Examiner mentions that the claims, as presently recited, do not adequately differentiate over the inferred simultaneous conduction of the cited prior art by clearly and distinctly setting forth the detection of actual simultaneous conduction based upon the determination of the conduction status of one of the switches by detecting the voltage across the synchronous switch for example.

Claims 7, 14, 21, 28, and 35-40 are amended herein to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 7, 14, 21 and 28, for example, are amended herein to recite that "the detection circuit monitors a driving signal that drives at least one of the main switch and the synchronous switch, and detects a voltage across one of the main switch and the synchronous switch to detect a state in which the main switch and the synchronous switch are simultaneously turned on."

Similar to claims 7, 14, 21 and 28, claim 35 recites, "the detecting monitors a driving signal driving at least one of the main switch and the synchronous switch, and detects a voltage across one of the main switch and the synchronous switch to detect a state in which the main switch and the synchronous switch are simultaneously turned on."

Claims 36-39 recite, "the detection circuit monitors a driving signal that drives at least one of the first switch and the second switch, and detects a voltage across one of the first switch and the second switch to detect the state in which the first switch and the second switch are simultaneously turned on."

Claim 40 recites, "detecting a voltage across one of the first switch and the second switch to detect a state in which the first switch and the second switch are simultaneously turned on."

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 14, 21, 28, and 35-40 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art. It is also submitted that the rejection of all of the pending claims is overcome.

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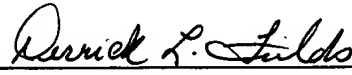
It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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